

Writing Prompts for World Language

1. Write about the similarities, differences in American culture and the culture of a country which speaks the language they are studying.
2. Compile an article which focuses on the do's and don'ts regarding travel in a particular foreign country appropriate to the language being studied.
3. Research and write about customs and rituals which give insight into the social behavior of the appropriate country.
4. For the Mandarin Chinese class, ask students to write about inventions of the ancient Chinese which have had an impact on the modern world.
5. Have students respond to this question: Do you think Ebonics should be considered a foreign language and children who speak it should be classified as English as Second Language students?
6. Respond to an editorial that claims that foreign language study should not be required in high school and that "it's time to cast aside differences in color, language, and heritage in order to create a single American culture.... We must insist on a national language and a national culture."
7. Research one of the heroes/notable people of an appropriate language-speaking country. Why and how are they honored or recognized in that culture? Do we have a comparable way of honoring a hero or famous person in America?
8. Compare/contrast a national holiday or _____ with one in the United States.
9. With a scene that has you transported to _____. Who would you be with or who would you meet? What would you be doing? How would you be using your knowledge of this language?
10. Compare and contrast life in two towns, one in _____ and the other in the United States. For example, compare and contrast two towns, one on the Mexican bank of the Rio Grande and the other on the U.S. side.
11. Ask students to go to a foreign film. Write a one-page reaction to the film or write a film review.
12. Would behave differently if you were in downtown _____ (Beijing, Paris, Munich, Madrid, etc.) than you would if you were in downtown Minneapolis?
Explain and give examples.
13. Have students read a novel by an author from an appropriate language – speaking country. Write a review. Do they see any differences in style, subject matter, etc.

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